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PAGES MISSING

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 ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PRS-01
	P-01	SIL-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	CORE-00	/057W			
					-----	0487AA	122318Z /64/38

O 031536Z NOV 93  
 FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4974

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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: N/A  
 TAGS: PHUM, RW  
 SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRY

REF: STATE 332046

1. POST FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THREE STUDENTS FROM MUDENDE, THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY NEAR GISENYI WHICH IS RUN BY AMERICAN MISSIONARIES. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED FIVE DAYS AFTER THE REBEL RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT (RPF), COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF MINORITY TUTSI REFUGEES, RENEWED HOSTILITIES IN THE NORTH OF THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING SIX MONTHS OF CEASE-FIRE IN A WAR

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PAGE 02 KIGALI 03948 01 OF 02 122310Z AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FORCES THAT BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1990. THE FEBRUARY 8 ATTACK PUT AT RISK THE AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO STAFF MUDENDE COLLEGE, WHICH WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE FRONT LINES OF THE ON-GOING FIGHTING. THE EMBASSY, FOLLOWING THE FRENCH LEAD, HAD ADVISED THE AMERICANS TO EVACUATE TO KIGALI. THE STAFF HAD DECIDED FIRST TO EVACUATE ITS STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE TUTSI, BEFORE THEMSELVES SEEKING REFUGE. (NOTE: THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WAS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS  
 DATE/CASE ID: 19 NOV 2002 200003723

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DETERIORATING FAST IN THE WAKE OF RENEWED HOSTILITIES. ON FEBRUARY 15, TWO DAYS AFTER THE ABDUCTION, THE EMBASSY REQUESTED VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE STATUS FOR AMERICANS. END NOTE.)

2. THE EVACUATION OF STUDENTS HAD BEGUN AND TWO BUS CONVOYS HAD ALREADY MADE THE TRIP TO KIGALI WHEN THE FEBRUARY 13 INCIDENT OCCURRED. THE SECOND BUS CONVOY HAD ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS FEBRUARY 12 AT A ROAD JUNCTION NEAR A MILITARY CAMP. ONE STUDENT, JEROME NYAGITARE, WAS TAKEN FROM THE BUS AND HELD FOR QUESTIONING, DESPITE STAFF EFFORTS TO ALLOW HIM TO PROCEED WITH THE REST OF THE STUDENTS TO KIGALI. THE REASON GIVEN WAS THAT HE HAD A RADIO, AND, TO PROVE IT, THE MILITARY SEIZED THE RADIO OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS THAT WAS IN THE BUS. AT THE SAME TIME, TWO OTHER STUDENTS WERE TAKEN OFF A DIFFERENT BUS AND TOLD TO RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY ON GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE FROM THE NORTH AND COULD NOT, THEREFORE, BE EVACUATED TO THE SOUTH. THE TWO FOUND THEIR WAY BACK TO THE SCHOOL, BUT JEROME WAS NOT RELEASED, DESPITE INTERVENTION FROM HIGH LEVELS OF THE GENDARMERIE

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 03948 01 OF 02 122310Z  
UNTIL FEBRUARY 15. ALL THREE WERE FROM THE NORTH, MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY TUTSI ETHNIC GROUP, AND BAQOGWE, A TUTSI SUB-GROUP THAT WAS HARSHLY TREATED BY THE MILITARY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR IN 1990; MANY WERE KILLED.

3. THE FOLLOWING DAY, FEBRUARY 13, THREE STUDENTS, ALPHONSE NKUNZURWAMDA, CELISTIN PARMEHUTU (NOT NAME REFTEL), AND EMMANUEL HAKIZIMAMA, WERE ABDUCTED FROM THE MUDENDE CAMPUS BY GENDARMES FROM A NEARBY GENDARME STATION. TWO OF THE THREE (WE ARE NOT SURE WHICH) WERE THE TWO WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE BUS THE DAY BEFORE AND TOLD TO RETURN TO THE CAMPUS. THE THREE WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS STATED IN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS THAT THE BODIES OF THE THREE STUDENTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND, ALONG WITH TWO UNIDENTIFIED BODIES, IN THE COMMUNE WHERE THE SCHOOL IS LOCATED. SCHOOL OFFICIALS REPORTED TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT THEY NEVER SAW THE BODIES BUT WERE CONVINCED THE STUDENTS WERE DEAD. THEY HAD

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STARTED THE DAY FOLLOWING THE ABDUCTION TO SEARCH FOR THE STUDENTS AND VISITED THEIR HOMES WHICH WERE IN THE AREA, TO NO AVAIL. THE GENDARMES WHO ABDUCTED THE STUDENTS ARE SUSPECTED OF HAVING KILLED THEM, AND THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY, THE BURGOMASTER, IS IMPLICATED IN THE AFFAIR. THE GENDARMES STATIONED NEAR THE SCHOOL WERE CHANGED. NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST ANYONE IN THE CASE.

4. THE REMAINING STUDENTS, INCLUDING JEROME WHO HAD BENN DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE RADIO, WERE  
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SAFELY EVACUATED TO KIGALI FEBRUARY 19, UNDER ARMED ESCORT HAND PICKED BY THE HEAD OF THE GENDARMERIE FOR THEIR DEPENDABILITY AFTER INTERVENTION BY THE EMBASSY WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. THE SCHOOL REOPENED AFTER A NEW CEASE-FIRE WAS DECLARED IN MARCH AND IS FUNCTIONING WITHOUT INCIDENT SO FAR THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

EMBASSY ACTIONS

5. BECAUSE OF THE INSTABILITY PREVALENT THROUGHOUT RWANDA DURING MOST OF 1992 AND EARLY 1993, THE EMBASSY WAS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN STAFF OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY. IN JANUARY 1993, ETHNIC AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE CLAIMED AT LEAST

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